

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7819

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO ANTICIPATED AID CUTOFF

1. TURKISH PRESS OF FEBRUARY 4 FEATURES PROSPECTIVE AMERICAN AID CUTOFF IN BOTH NEWS AND EDITORIAL SECTIONS. IN ADDITION TO COMMENTARY BY PRIMIN IRMAK AND FONMIN ESENBEL (REPORTED SEPTTEL), NEWS STORIES HIGHLIGHT SPECUALTION ABOUT POSSIBLE TURKISH RESPONSES TO AN AID CUTOFF:

A. LEFT OF CENTER CUMHURIYET'S LEAD STORY, CITING FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES, STATES THAT IF AID IS CUT OFF, PLANNED MEASURES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY LEADERS. AMONG THE "MOST PROBABLE" MEASURES CITED BY THESE SOURCES WERE THE "CLOSING OF ACTIVITIES OF SOME BASES" AND OF THE "US EARLY WARNING SYSTEM" AT DIYARBAKIR AS WEWL AS A REVIEW OF BILATERAL MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT IN THE EVENT OF AN AID

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CUTOFF FONMIN ESENBEL WOULD PROBABLY CANCEL HIS VISIT TO

BRUSSELS.

B. MASS CIRCULATION HURRIYET, ALSO CITING UNNAMED FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES, REPORTS THAT IF AID IS CUT OFF, THE AMERICAN MILITARY AID MISSION (JUSMMAT) WOULD BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND IF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES DID NOT REPLACE THE AID, TURKEY WOULD REVISE ITS RELATIONS WITH NATO.

2. EDITORIALS FEBRUARY 4 REFLECT TWO EMERGING STRAINS OF OPINION ON THE AID CUTOFF; (1) NATIONALISTIC CALLS FOR FIRMNESS AND APPLICATION OF COUNTERMEASURES AND (2) PARTISAN ACCUSATIONS OF BLAME AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CUTOFF. REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIRST OPINION IS A CUMHURİYET EDITORIAL URGING THE GOT TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS: "SINCE RELATIONS ARE ON AN EQUAL AND MUTUAL BASIS, THE DAY AID TO TURKEY IS CUT, COUNTERMEASURES AND A READJUSTMENT OF RELATIONS WILL BE MADE ... WASHINGTON, WHICH ATTEMPTS TO PUNISH THIS COUNTRY BECAUSE SHE DOES NOT LIKE HER FOREIGN POLICY, MUST BE SHOWN THERE IS AN ADMINISTRATION IN OFFICE IN ANKARA WHICH WILL TAKE THE NECESSARY COUNTERMEASURES AS A MATTER OF NATIONAL PRIDE." THE PRO-REPUBLICAN PEOPLES' PARTY (RPP) YENİ ULUS REFLECTS THE PARTISAN APPROACH IN CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT FOR YIELDING TO AMERICAN "BLACKMAIL" AND FOR HAVING MADE CONCESSIONS AND GETTING A MILITARY AID CUTOFF IN RETURN. INSTEAD OF FORCING THE US TO EITHER ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF A TURKISH PULLOUT FROM NATO OR THE LOSS OF TURKISH BASES, THE GOVERNMENT "RETURNED TO THE DOCILE POLICY OF THE OTTOMAN PASHAS." THE RIGHTIST SON HAVADIS, ON THE OTHER HAND, BLAMES FORMER PRİMİN ECEVİT FOR HAVING PLANNED "SECRET CONCESSIONS" WHICH EVEN WHEN OFFERED DID NOT PREVENT THE AID CUTOFF. MACOMBER

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